

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 EB-07 SCA-01

DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 OPIC-03 ARAE-00 /063 W

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O R 271415Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3623

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJ: SEIZURE OF US TUNA VESSELS: SITUATION AS OF 2000

JANUARY 26

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES, WILSON ARROYO, AND HIS LEGAL ADVISOR DEPARTED SALINAS FOR GUAYAQUIL AT 1530 JANUARY 26 AFTER TAKING DEPOSITION FROM EACH TUNA BOAT CAPTAIN AND COMPLETING PAPER WORK REQUIRED AT OFFICE OF PORT CAPTAIN.

2. BOAT CAPTAINS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO GUAYAQUIL MORNING OF JANUARY 27 FOR VISIT TO OFFICES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES WHERE FINES WILL BE CALCULATED AND CHARGES ASSESSED. VICENTE YULEE, VAN CAMP REP, WILL ATTEMPT CONTACT COMPANY'S HOME OFFICE TO SEE IF VAN CAMP WILL ADVANCE FUNDS TO FINANCE RELEASE OF FOUR BOATS. HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM FOR THREE BOATS UNDER VAN CAMP CONTRACT BUT NOT SURE IF COMPANY WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR JACQUELINE.

3. THORNY PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH CATCH ON BOARD BOATS WHEN
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SEIZED REMAINS UNRESOLVED. ARROYO INDICATED TO CONSUL SCHRAGE IN

SALINAS THAT HE HAD YET TO FORMULATE DEFINITE PLAN ON HOW TO HANDLE CATCH. IF CATCH IS TO BE CONFISCATED AND OFF-LOADED AT SALINAS MAY TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED. ONE DIFFICULTY IS LOCATING STORAGE FACILITIES FOR ROUGHLY 1,200 TONS OF TUNA ON BOARD FOUR BOATS. FREEZING SPACE SCARCE IN SALINAS BECAUSE TUNA CATCH HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD THIS YEAR AND OWNERS THESE FACILITIES MAY NOT BE EAGER ACCEPT CONFISCATED CATCH BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS TO OWN BOATS. EVEN IF STORAGE SPACE FOUND, BOAT CAPTAINS SAY IT WILL TAKE 2 DAYS TO PREPARE CATCH FOR UNLOADING. IF ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES PROPOSE SELL BACK TO BOATS THEIR OWN CATCH RATHER THAN CONFISCATING IT, A PRICE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

4. TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN BOAT CAPTAINS AND ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED IN CORRECT AND FORMAL MANNER. ECUADOREANS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN RESTRICTIVE REGARDING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITH CREWS STILL CONFINED TO THEIR BOATS AND CAPTAINS PERMITTED ASHORE ONLY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH AUTHORITIES.

5. CONSUL SCHRAGE WILL RETURN TO GUAYAQUIL MORNING OF JANUARY 27 AND WILL BEGIN PREPARING FOR TRANSMISSION INFORMATION CONCERNING SEIZURE REQUIRED BY DEPARTMENT.
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